

FIRST COMICS 1982 1987
FIFTH
MAY 1988
35
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BADGER™



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DANCE

WHO ARE THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?



The Badger is **Norbert Sykes**, a Vietnam veteran suffering from an extremely rare multiple personality disorder, which has its origins in childhood trauma. Seven great personalities in one. The personality most frequently inhabited by Norbert, indeed almost *exclusively preferred*, is the Badger, a self-styled crime fighter who rides the highways and by-ways of America, meting out bloody justice to jaywalkers, ticket scalpers, indifferent teenaged fast food clerks, in fact, *any damn body he feels like because he's CRAZY!*

Badger is an expert at hand-to-hand combat. He began his training in Shorin-ryu but has since gone on to master dozens of obscure, esoteric, arcane, not to mention obtruse martial arts, the likes of which you seldom hear about.

He can also talk to the animals — just like Dr. Doolittle, or Lorne Greene. Only Badger gets better results than Lorne Greene.

Badger lives with **Ham the Weather Wizard** in a castle south of Barneveld, Wisconsin. Ham and Badger met while both were inmates at a state mental hospital. Through cunning and chicanery, Ham has amassed a considerable fortune.

LAST ISSUE: Ham made a bad deal with a **Count Kohler**, a demon from another dimension. So the Count transformed a bunch of bikers into killer zombies, and now they're going to rape Ham and kill Daisy. No, wait, that's not right. Anyway, Badger's dog has run off with the Count's **Waffenpoof**. No, *really...*

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FIRST
COMICS

BADGER™

HA HA HA! THE
GREAT HAMMAGLYSTWYTH
COWERS IN HIS KEEP
BECAUSE HE'S LOST MY
WAFFENPOOF!

PARRRY!

ROCK
AND
ROLL!

ROAR

GARDEN PARTY

mike baron ron lim jay geldhof kurt hathaway ray murtaugh rick oliver
WRITER PENCILS INKS LETTERS COLORS EDITOR

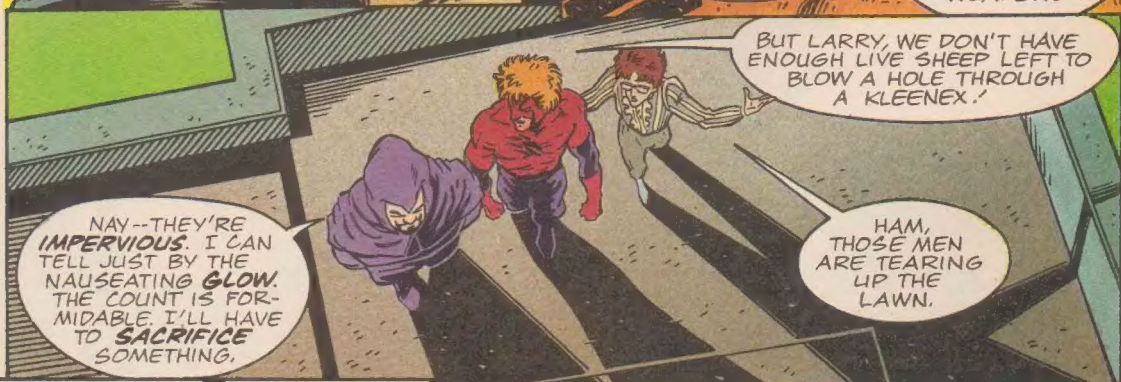
LIFE HERE HAS SOFTENED YOU, HAM! LOOK AT YOU! A POOR TRADER IN STOCKS AND ISSUES--YOU NO LONGER HAVE THE **BILE** TO DO ME BATTLE, ONE **WIZ-ARD** TO ANOTHER!



RANTON, COUNT KOHLER! I AM NOT YET **WHOLLY** CIVILIZED!

LARRY, LARRY, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THESE GUYS? SHOULD I BREAK OUT THE AUTOMATIC WEAPONS?

BUT LARRY, WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH LIVE SHEEP LEFT TO BLOW A HOLE THROUGH A KLEENEX!



NAY--THEY'RE IMPERVIOUS. I CAN TELL JUST BY THE NAUSEATING **GLOW**. THE COUNT IS FOR-MIDABLE. I'LL HAVE TO **SACRIFICE** SOMETHING.

HAM, THOSE MEN ARE TEARING UP THE LAWN.

NOT SHEEP! THE **WAFFENPOOF**! WE MUST FIND THE CREATURE AND USE IT AGAINST ITS MASTER.

THE **DOG'S** GOT THE **WAFFENPOOF TREED** IN A HUGE OLD OAK. BUT HOW DO WE GET TO THE **DOG**?



CALL THE **DOG** HOME.



HOW'S THAT GOING TO HELP?

IF THE **DOG'S** AS GOOD AS YOU SAY, HE SHALL SUPPLY THE BLOOD I NEED TO BRING THE **WAFFENPOOF** HERE TO ME.

YOU MEN STOP THAT!!



WHAT?! YOU WANT TO SACRIFICE MY DAWG?

COME, COME, OLD CHAP! YOU ONLY JUST MET THE CUR. I SHALL BE HAPPY TO UNDERTAKE COUNT KOHLER AND HIS MERRY CREW...



BUT WITHOUT BLOOD SACRIFICE, I DOUBT WE SHALL SURVIVE THE ENCOUNTER!

Oh, YEAH?! WE'LL JUST SEE ABOUT THAT!



WHERE'S HE GOING?

I HAVE A VERY GOOD IDEA.

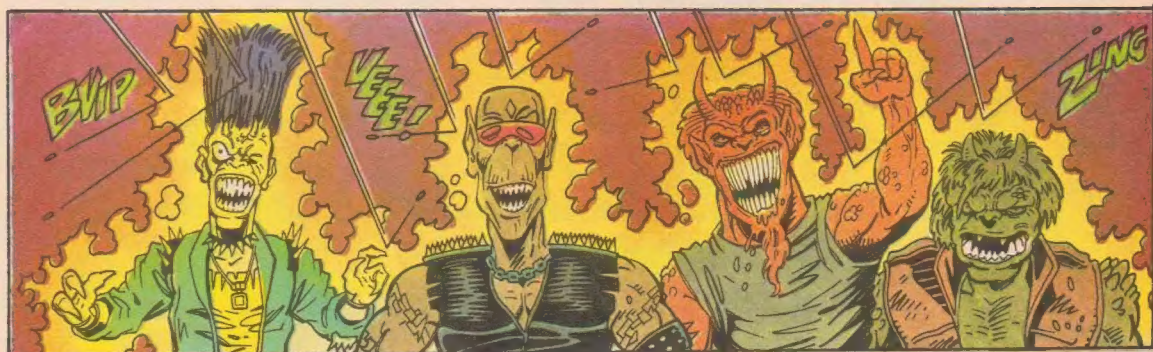


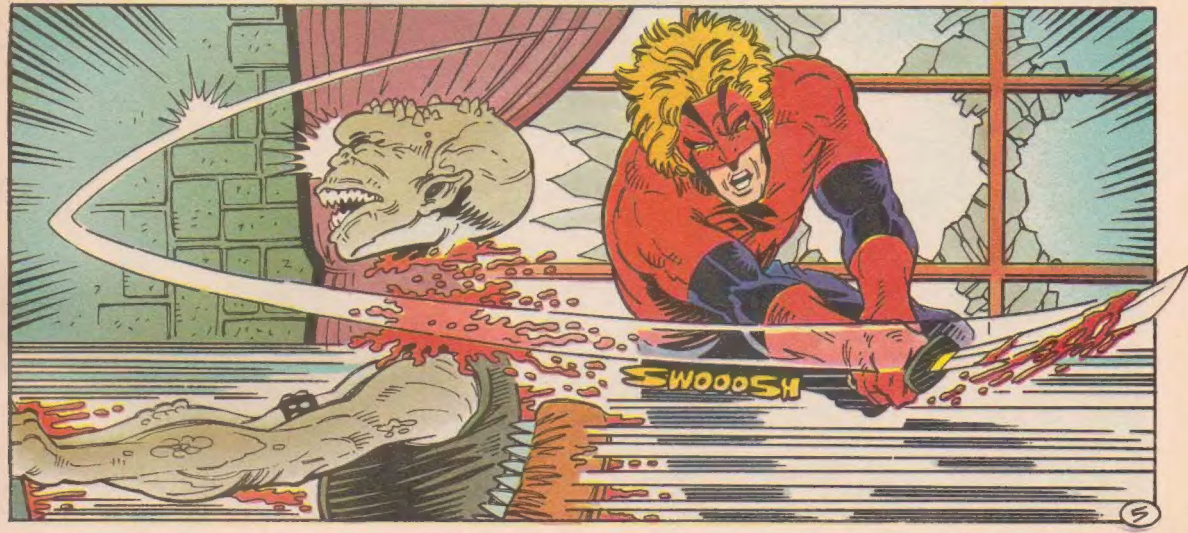
IMPERVIOUS, ARE THEY? WE'LL SEE HOW THEY STAND UP TO THIS HECKLER AND KOCH MP5A 3!

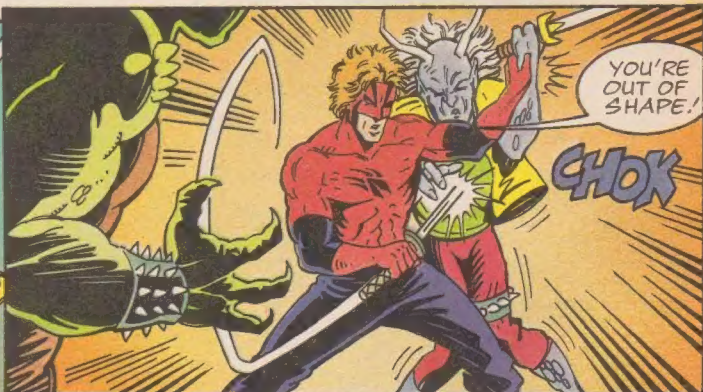
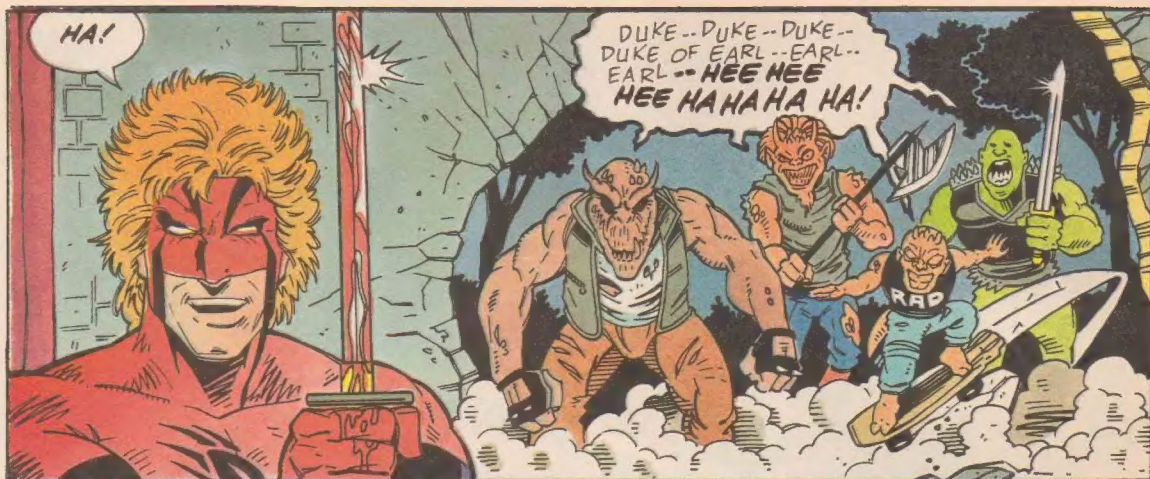


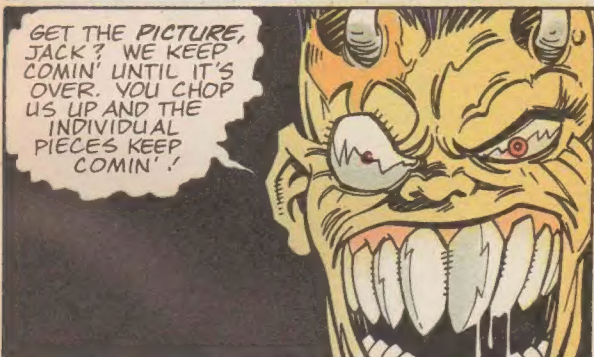
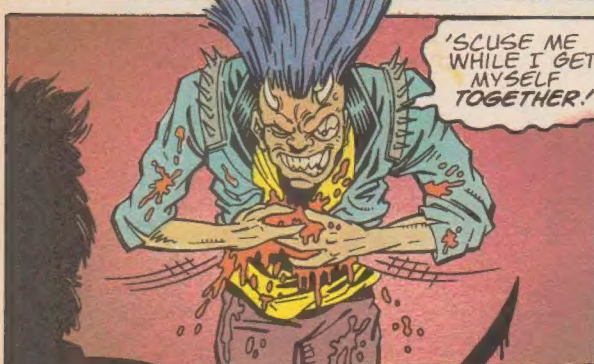
EAT HOT LEAD, ZOMBIE BIKERS!

RAT
TAT
TAT!













CLAPTRAP!
YOU HAVE NOTHING
TO WORRY ABOUT,
DAISY, YOU HAVE
MY WORD ON IT

I'LL KILL
YOU BEFORE I
LET THEM HAVE
YOU.

THAT'S VERY
REASSURING,
NORBERT.

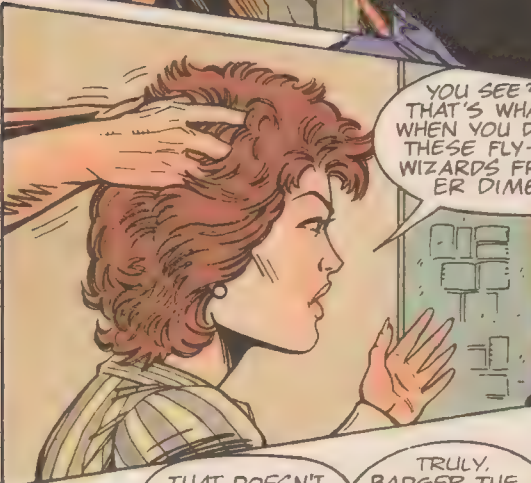


NOW WILL YOU
CALL YOUR DOG?

HAM, IS MY DOG
REALLY GOING
TO MAKE THE
DIFFERENCE?

I'M
AFRAID
SO.

THE COUNT
AND HIS HORDE ARE
BRISTLING WITH THE
REAL STUFF. I DON'T
UNDERSTAND HOW
EVENTS HAVE
DETERIORATED.
IT SEEMED LIKE SUCH
A SIMPLE DEAL.



YOU SEE?
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET
WHEN YOU DEAL WITH
THESE FLY-BY-NIGHT
WIZARDS FROM ANOTH-
ER DIMENSION!



MADAME,
COUNT KOHLER
HAS BEEN IN
BUSINESS FOR
1200 YEARS.



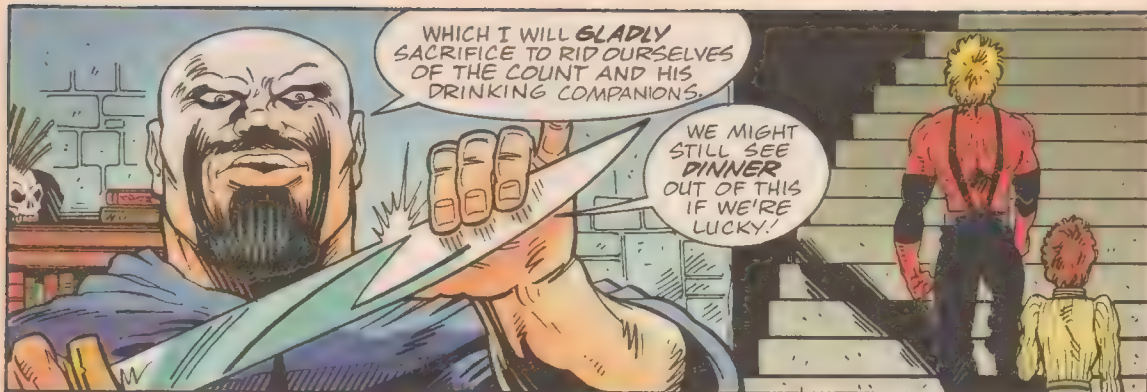
THAT DOESN'T
MAKE HIM A
NICE PERSON.

TRULY,
BADGER, THE
HORDE DRAWS
NEAR. WILL YOU
CALL YOUR
DOG?



Oh, HELL.
OUR LIVES ARE
WORTH MORE THAN
A DOG'S...

THEN DO IT!
I NEED THE
BEAST'S BLOOD
TO SUMMON THE
WAFFENPOOF.



WHICH I WILL **GLADLY** SACRIFICE TO RID OURSELVES OF THE COUNT AND HIS DRINKING COMPANIONS.

WE MIGHT STILL SEE **DINNER** OUT OF THIS IF WE'RE LUCKY!



Wheet!



DO YOU THINK WE'LL GET OUT OF THIS?

I DON'T KNOW. IT JUST GREW OUT OF NOTHING...THE DOG, THE GANG, THE COUNT...



WELL, WE'VE HAD SOME FUN.

WE SURE HAVE.

I'M JUST SORRY I DIDN'T GET TO PUBLISH MY **BOOK**!



THE ONE ABOUT ME?

"WHEN **BADGER** **HOWLS**."



BADGER! COULD I HAVE SOME **ASSISTANCE** DOWN HERE?

EXCUSE ME--USE THE GUN IF YOU MUST.

FIRST NOTES

Shameless Marketing Ploy

A couple months ago, in the letter column for *Nexus*, a spine-tingling, earth-shattering, trend-setting comic book series, I casually remarked that I thought *Nexus* was unquestionably the most indescribably, unbelievably, incredibly great comic book in the entire cosmos, and wondered why rabid fans weren't holding large caliber hand guns at the foreheads of recalcitrant retailers who failed to order this mind-bogglingly stupendous book in larger quantities.

Aside from a handful of Rhodes scholars who complained that *Nexus* was just too darn complicated, the vast majority of readers felt the culprit was a failure on the part of management to utilize the latest marketing techniques to plug the poop out of the sucker. I, of course, realized they were referring to subliminal messages buried in the otherwise nauseating Muzak in elevators and supermarkets. You know, the secret, subconscious messages that convince you that you need a particularly useless product so badly that you feel compelled to launch a hostile take-over bid for the entire company in order to have a constant supply, propelling stock prices to unprecedented and entirely unwarranted levels, resulting in a subsequent stock market crash of astronomical proportions and a worldwide depression.

So, not one to be left in the wake of progress, I got on the phone and signed a multi-million dollar, five year contract to hypnotize unsuspecting housewives into purchasing multiple copies of *Nexus*, when all they really wanted was some processed cheese food. Unfortunately, I forgot that *Nexus* isn't available in supermarkets, and so the effect on sales was negligible. However, there was an unexpected boom in sales of a certain brand of hair care products.

On further review of the mail, I realized that our readers were merely suggesting we resort to superfluous hyperbole in the promotion of this breath-taking, heart-stopping, foot-stomping, death-defying series.

But, of course, we all know that we would never stoop to that sort of shameless marketing ploy.

New American Flagg!

And while I'm on the subject of plugging

things that don't even have holes in them to begin with, if you're not reading this in Howard Chaykin's *American Flagg!* #1 ... well, then you must be reading it in some other book, of course. But that's not the point. The point is you *could* be reading it in Howard Chaykin's *American Flagg!* #1, because it's on sale this month. In fact, you *should* read it in Howard Chaykin's *American Flagg!* #1, because otherwise you won't know what you're missing ... which is, of course, Howard Chaykin's *American Flagg!* ... which you don't really want to miss, do you?

So much for subliminals.

Starslayer Graphic Novel

And if, by some strange quirk of fate, we're still plugging away at poor defenseless books, don't forget the trade paperback reprint of the original six-issue *Starslayer* epic, written and illustrated by Mike Grell. That's right. All six issues complete in one volume. Over 150 pages. All in color. All for only \$9.95. Of course, how could you forget about it if this is the first time you're hearing about it? Well, now you've heard, and it's your responsibility to remember until next month (February), when the book goes on sale, at which point you will undoubtedly buy it, and I will consider this column a smashing success as a revolutionary marketing ploy, without any shame whatsoever.

—Rick Oliver

The more observant among you may notice that this column is mostly fluff and padding this month. The *most* observant of you may notice that virtually *all* my columns are mostly fluff and padding — but this one more so than others.

You see, there we were, sporting our festive party hats that made our heads look like inverted ice cream cones with hair in the middle, celebrating our first daughter's first birthday, when our second daughter decided to check out all the commotion. Only trouble was she hadn't been born yet. A minor obstacle that was quickly remedied through massive efforts by a crack team of professionals, consisting almost entirely of my wife, Jade. And on October 29, 1987, at 6:18 am, Dakota Oliver was born.

And now I have what every man dreams of: a house full of beautiful blondes.

First In January

Lone Wolf and Cub #9: By Kazuo Koike and Goseki Kojima. Cover and introduction by Frank Miller. Bonus issue — 72 pages!

Badger #35: Badger and Ham carve their way through a gruesome gathering of monstrous motorheads. By Mike Baron and Ron Lim. Cover by Mike Zeck.

Evangeline #7: Evangeline uncovers the mystery of the conspiracy against the church in part two of "The Resurrectors" by Chuck Dixon and John Statema.

Nexus #44: Horatio and Judah depart for the bowl-shaped world, while back on Ylum, Creed is stalked by a pair of Gucci assassins. By Mike Baron and Paul Smlth.

Dreadstar #36: Everyone is stunned by the death of a major character! By Jim Starlin, Luke McDonnell and Val Mayerik.

Grimjack #46: The Dancer's demons continue their take-over of the governors of Cynosure, and Kalibos returns with a deadly scheme of his own! By John Ostrander and Tom Mandrake.

Psychoblast #7: The incredible origin of D.S.X. Machina — the god from the machine! By Steven Grant, Robb Phipps and Al Vey. \$1.75.

Howard Chaykin's American Flagg! #1: The return of Howard Chaykin in an all-new monthly AF! series! No more simp, wimp, boyscout junk — the real Reuben Flagg is back!

Chronicles of Corum #9: The malevolent forces of Chaos renew their attack. By Mike Baron, Ken Hooper and Kelley Jones.

Sable #3: A pentathlon contestant is targeted for assassination, and Sable is hired to find the killer — or become the target himself! By Marv Wolfman, Bill Jaaska and Ralph Cabrera.

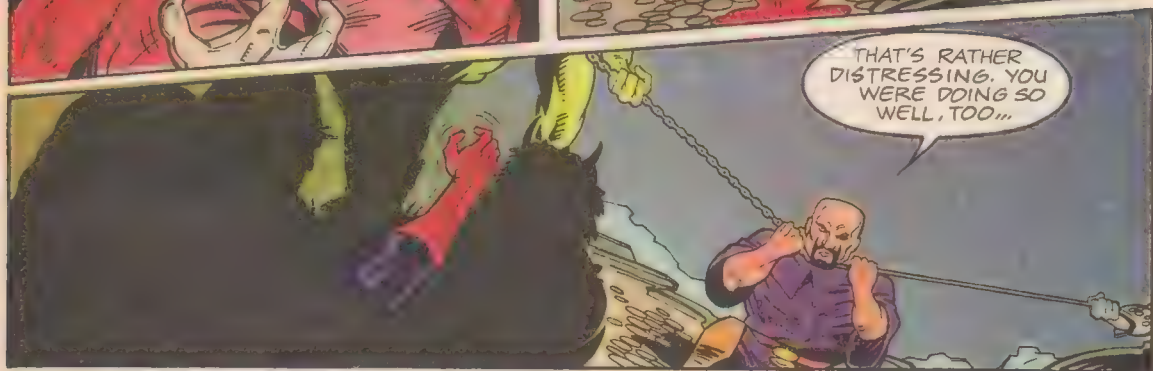
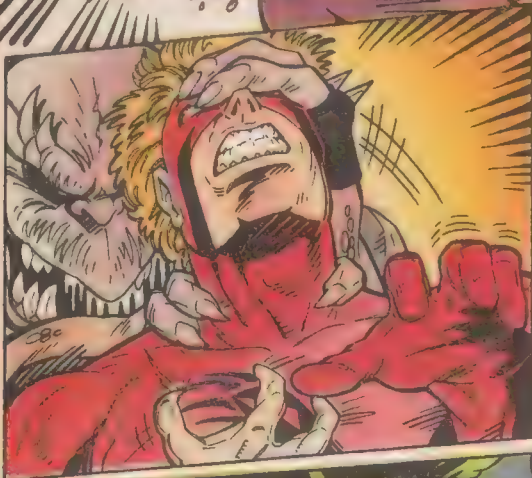
A Girl You Could Really Fall For...

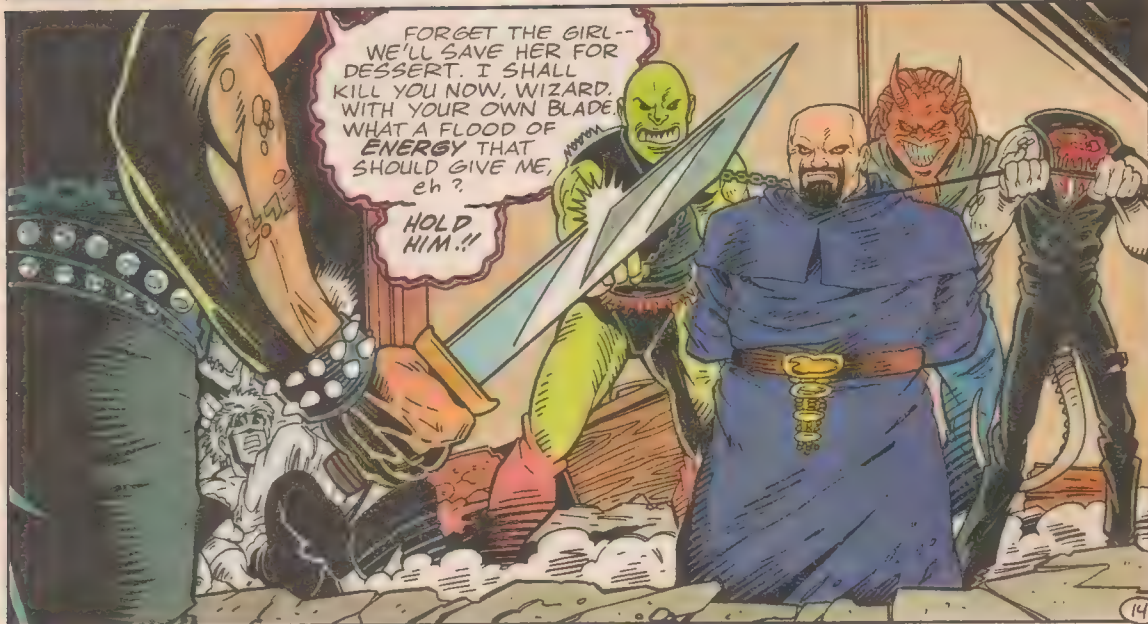
New
Artist
SPYDER
Joins
Writer/
Creator
**STEVEN
GRANT**
for the New
MONTHLY
Adventures
of **WHISPER**
Beginning in
WHISPER #13

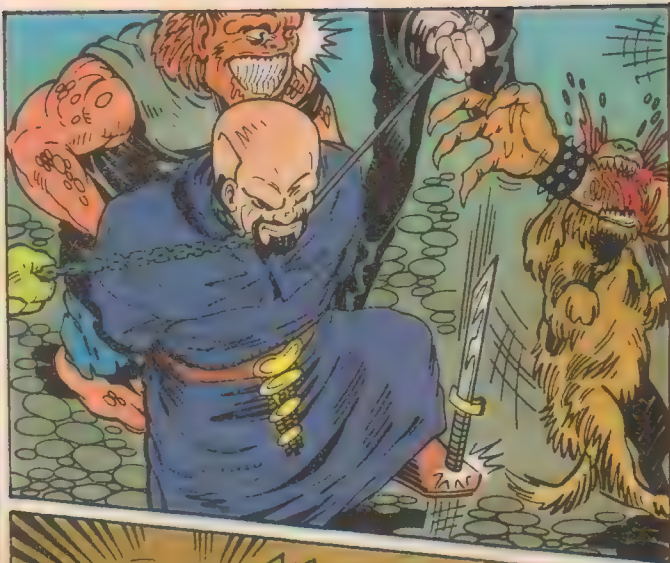


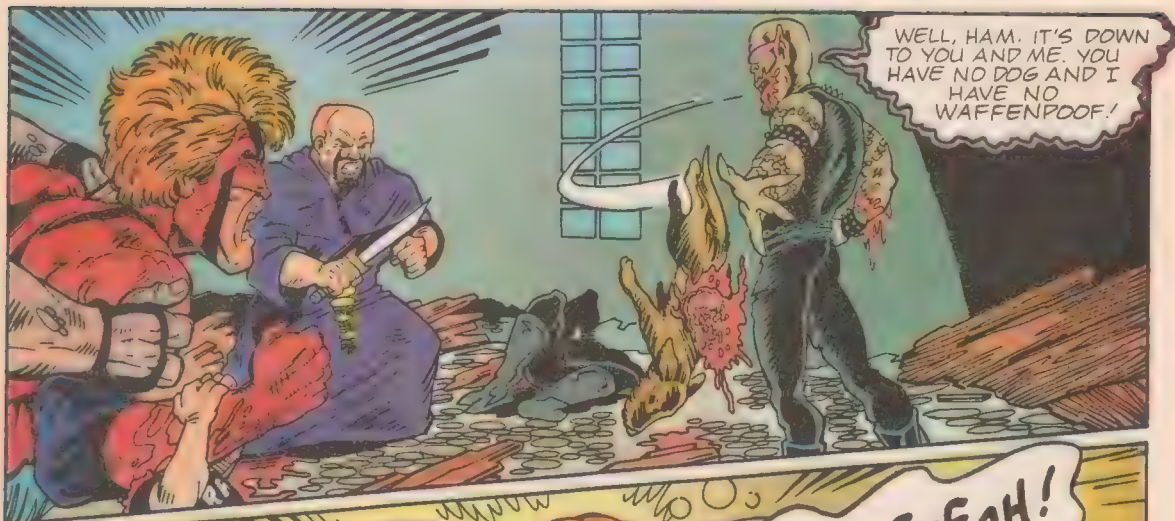
Coming in February from

FIRST
COMICS
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AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE PSYCHO IN HIS FIRST GRAPHIC NOVEL **HEXBREAKER**

A BADGER GRAPHIC NOVEL

BY MIKE BARON

AND BILL REINHOLD

64 PAGES

FULL COLOR

ALL NEW



COMING IN MARCH FROM

FIRST
PUBLISHING
COUNT ON US.

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A BADGER GRAPHIC NOVEL WASN'T ENOUGH!

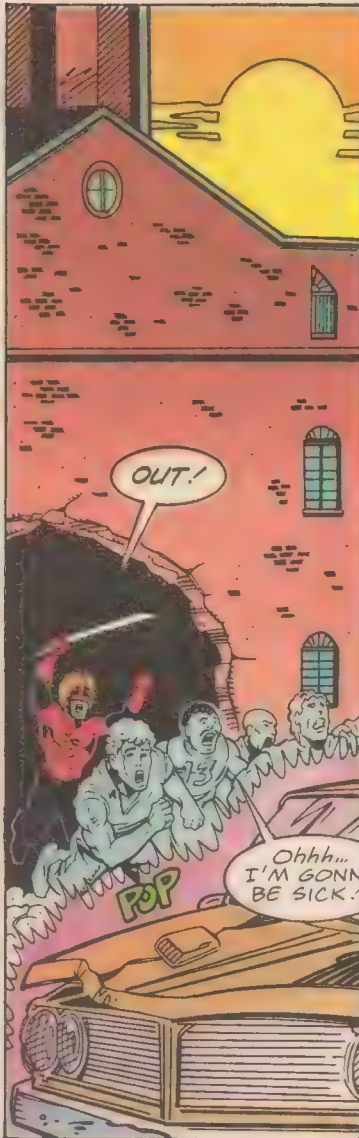
America's Number One Psycho
returns to the
pages of NEXUS
for a special
six-part story
starting in
NEXUS #45.

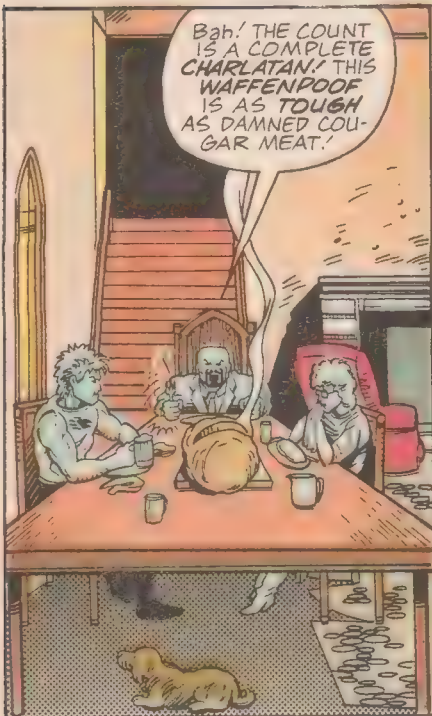
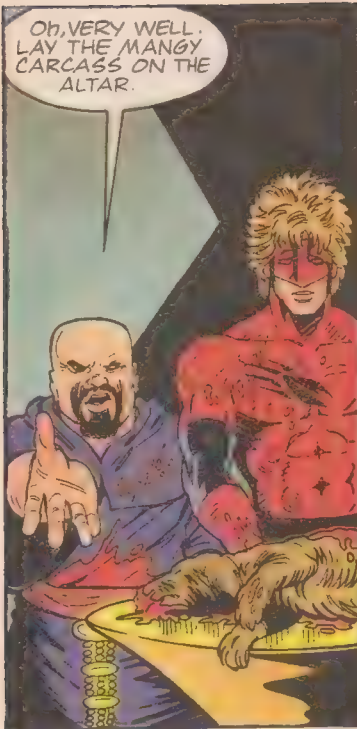


NEXUS #45

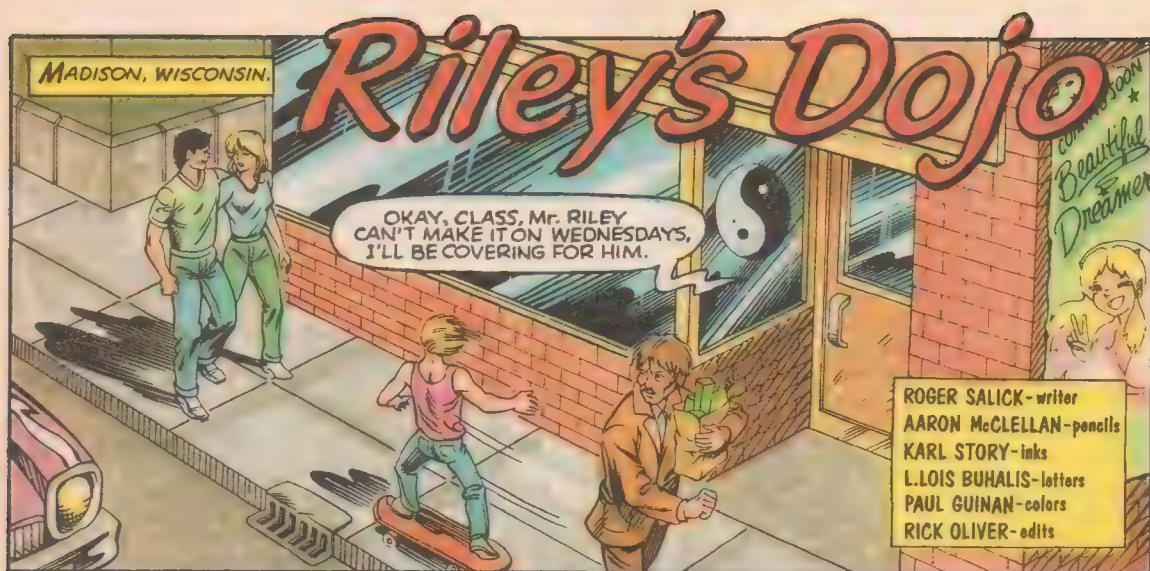
Coming in February from **FIRST**
COMICS







next:DIRE WOLF!



Riley's Dojo

OKAY, CLASS, Mr. RILEY CAN'T MAKE IT ON WEDNESDAYS, I'LL BE COVERING FOR HIM.

ROGER SALICK-writer
AARON McCLELLAN-pencils
KARL STORY-inks
L.L.OIS BUHALIS-letters
PAUL GUINAN-colors
RICK OLIVER-edits

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO WORK TONIGHT, SENSEI?

STREET SCENARIOS, SO GET YOUR MOUTHGUARDS IN. WHO HAS A SITUATION THEY WANT TO SEE?

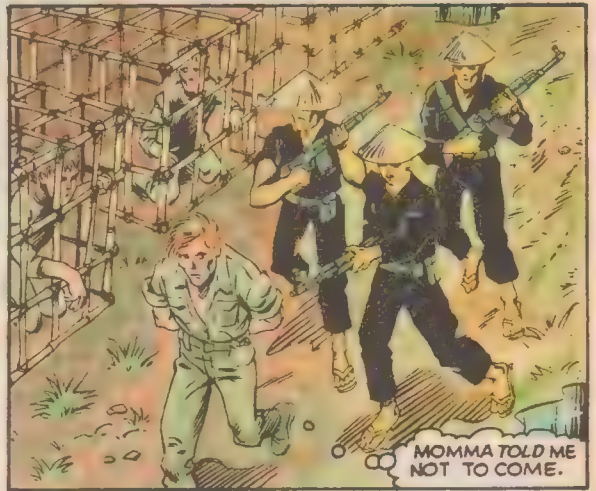
TWO GUYS JUMPED ME AT THE DANCE THE OTHER NIGHT. WHAT DO YOU DO?

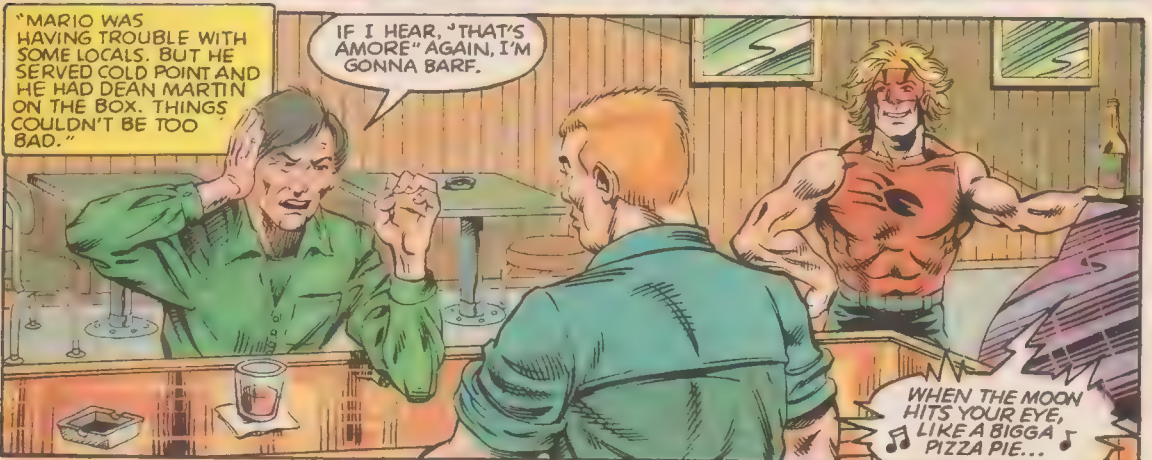
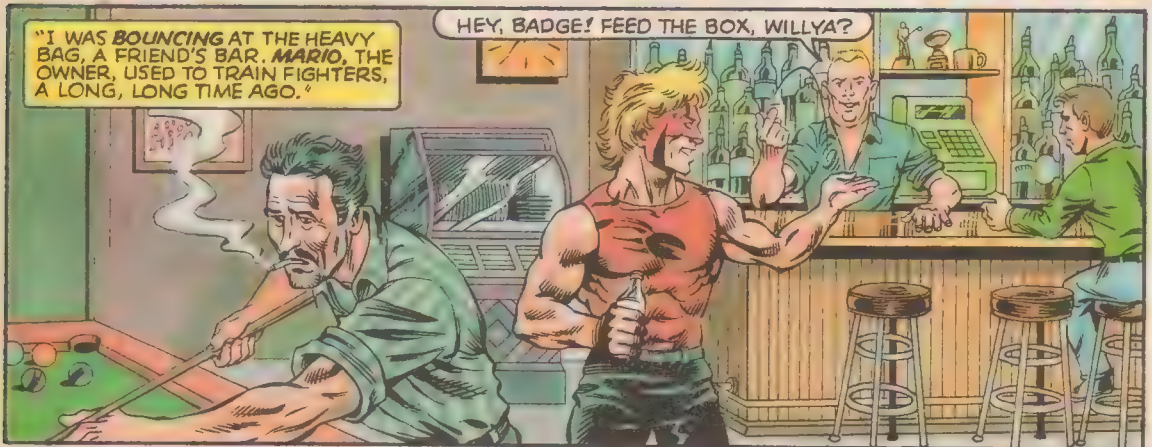
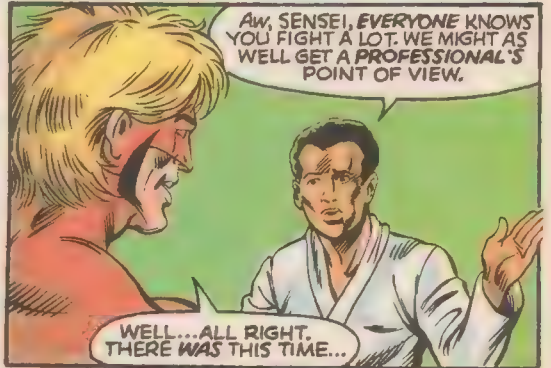
HOW DID THEY COME AT YOU?

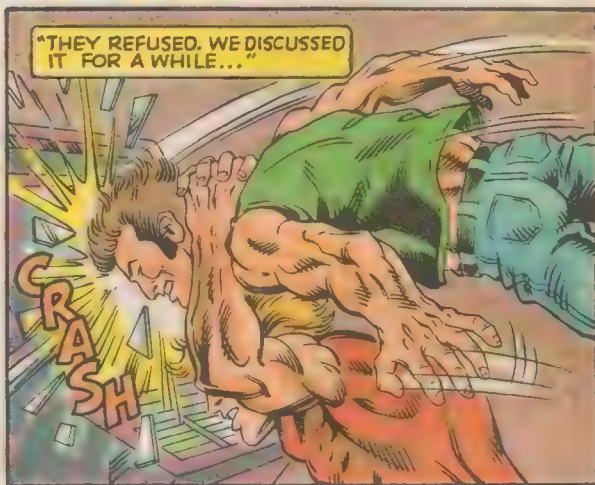
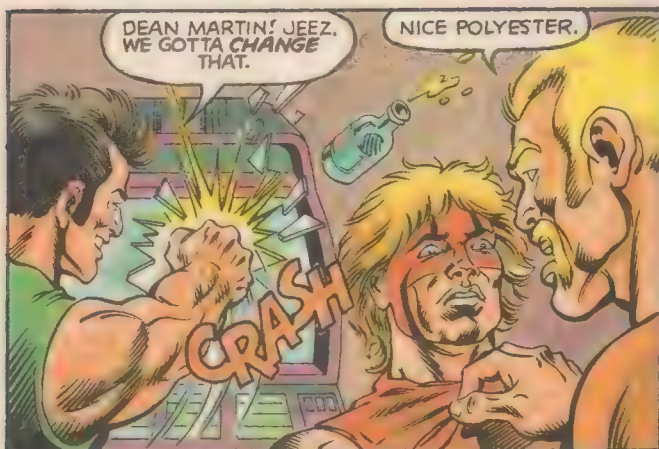
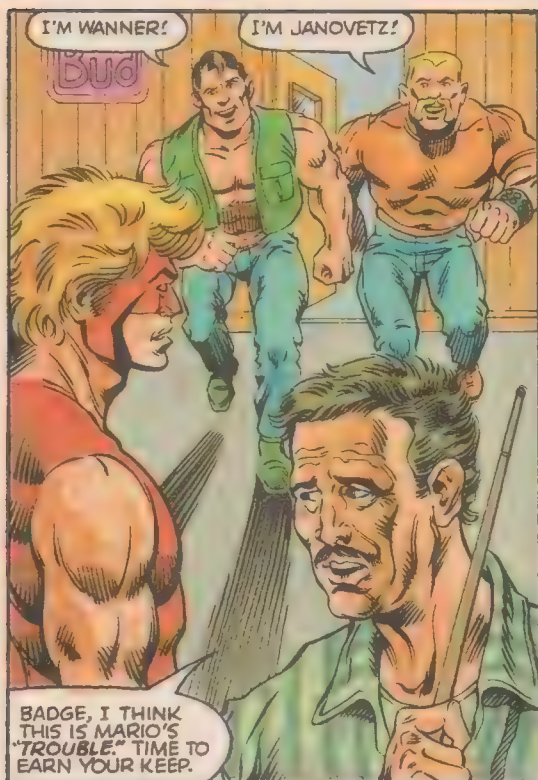
ONE HELD ME IN A BEAR HUG FROM BEHIND. THE OTHER GUY WHOPPED ME FROM THE FRONT. THAT EVER HAPPEN TO YOU?

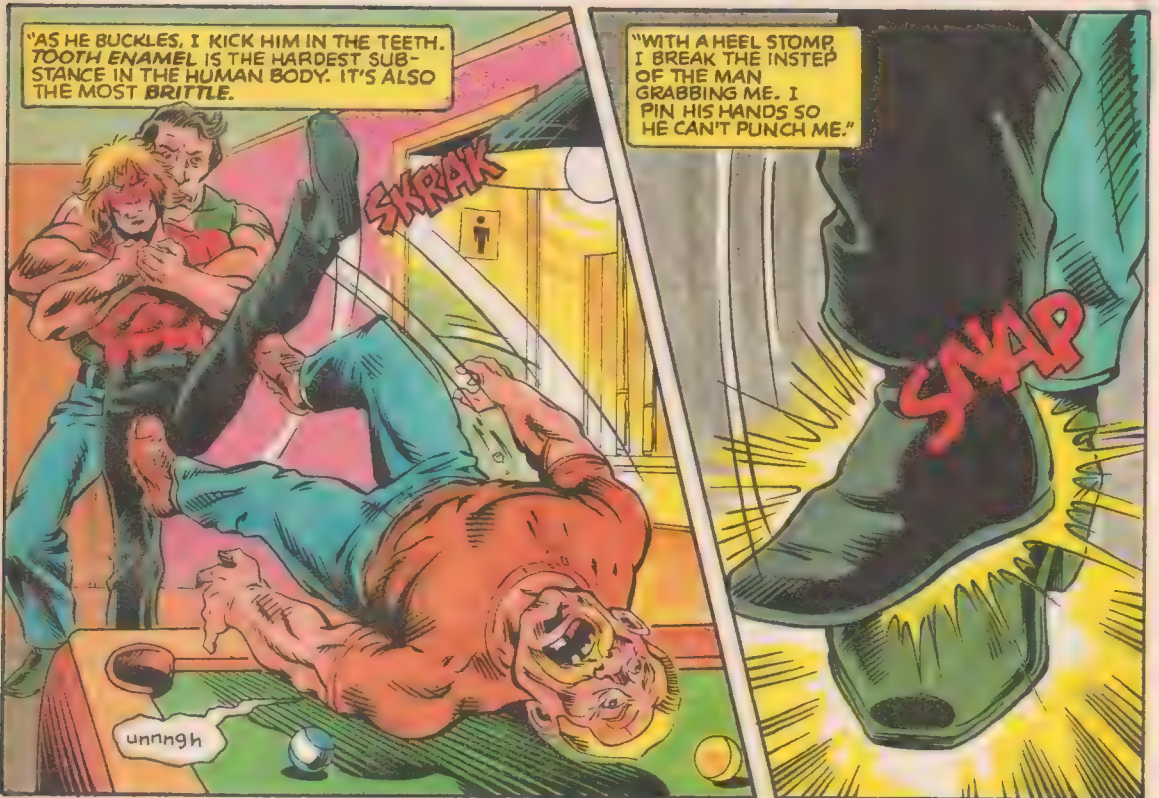
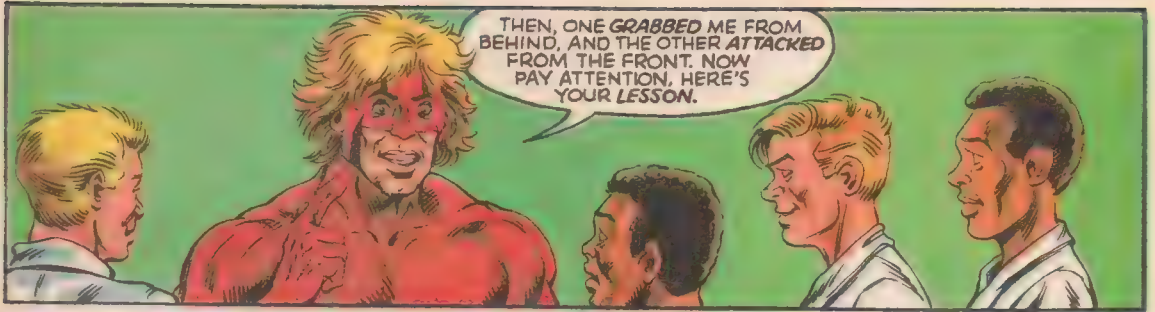
YES... A LIFETIME AGO...

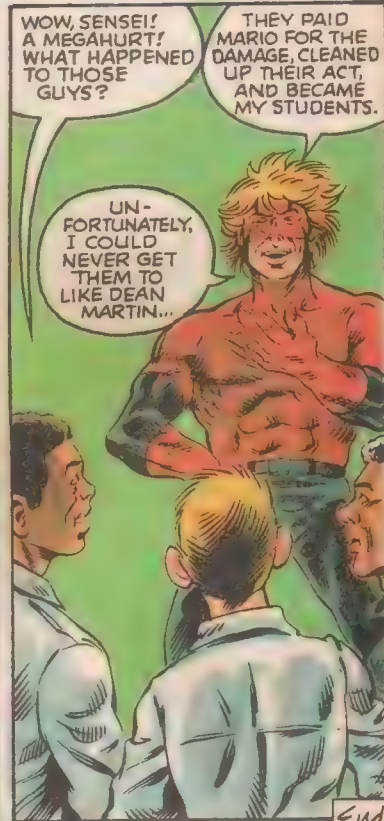
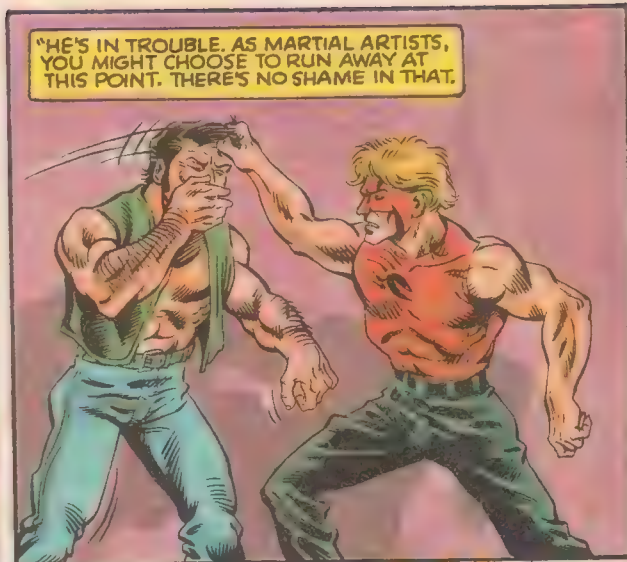
MEMORIES... DARK MEMORIES...











Dear LARRY,:

C/O FIRST COMICS
435 N. LASALLE
CHICAGO IL
60610

Dear Mike,

I sent one of these to the Senate and one to the House. What do you think?

Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture
SD140, Dirksen Seante Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

To the Proposed Animal Damage Control Unit,

Systematically killing eagles, hawks, badgers, and other animals of prey simply to protect our "poor" cattle ranchers who wish to place profit above life and our country's national heritage is not only fundamentally stupid but it could also severely disrupt the foodchain. Without the intervention of badgers, wolves, eagles, hawks, coyotes, and all of the rest of the American animals of prey, the vermin population would grow unchecked and create a potential catastrophe. Rats and mice would reproduce at an uncontrollable rate and thusly create a larger problem then the original predatory animals posed. As any sane human being can see, the fundamental purpose of the Animal Damage Control Unit is to waste tax payers' money and upset the natural order of things.

It makes me ANGRY to think my hard earned tax dollars may be spent on this type of government funded slaughter of innocent animals. I'm

DISGUSTED to think that there is a maniac in Congress moronic enough to even think of proposing such horrendous legislation. To them I say, NO WAY LARRY!

Dave Hofhine
And friends of badgers everywhere
N50 W6678 Western Road
Cedarburg, WI 53012

Dear Larry,

I agree with all the pro-Clonezone letters in issue #28. He has lifted me, too, out of many ruts and does offset the Badger nicely.

And now for something completely different.

Can I write the Badger Movie? Yes. May I? Only you know for sure. Please at least read this: The darkness is closing in and I don't know how long I can hold out.

Nightstalker
Josh Peterson
5912 Crescent Drive
Edina, MN 55436

Dear Larry,

It's 1:35 AM in Brisbane and I'm watching Bryant Gumbel and Jane Pauly live in Shanghai (your TODAY, our yesterday). After reading Rick Oliver's First Notes re: unsolicited submissions, my sleep mode brain pattern switched to overdrive and I couldn't sleep for all the "like wow" ideas I have for Badger

scripts.

My primary reason for writing is a query (queer-ie?). How the hell do you get the sticky gunk off your comics when you peel off the price stickers the comic dealer puts on 'cause they're a) back issues and worth big \$\$, or b) you need prices 'cause Australian dollars are worth less than U.S. dollars, so we need a translation to understand how much we're REALLY paying?

Can you erase/dissolve/irradiate the gunk off without erasing, dissolving or irradiating the glossy finish off the comic cover? Is it true that irradiation techniques can contaminate the characters in First Comics and cause them to (gasp!) MUTATE??

Any or all responses to this plea for assistance would be appreciated.

P.S. Did you know that Badger #31 is dated January '88, but we get it in October '87? Could this be because enroute to Australia they (the comics) try to adjust their biological clocks and suffer from a kind of inverse jet lag of about three months?

P.P.S. You can correct my spelling mistakes but all the other stuff is copyright — OK? EDIT AWAY, LARRY; reject my letter—*Das Badger* will avengeth mine honour? (Yes? No! Maybe?!)

P.P.P.S. Disregard the P.P.S., Pierre may have different notions of honour from Badger.

P.P.P.P.S. What the hell —

"The scene shifts to a gang of delinquents victimizing a voluptuous redhead . . . Just when it looks like her dress will be completely ripped off, out of nowhere comes . . . The She Badgers."

have a nice day.

P.P.P.P.P.S. Do you think maybe I should just write appendices to my letters?

A) Yes?

B) No!

C) Maybe?!

D) Go bag your head you nong!

P.P.P.P.P.S. This is REALLY the last thing I'm writing to you — tonight, anyway.

Bernie Greenslade
2/62 Arthur Tee
Red Hill 4059
Queensland, Australia

That's the last time we let Mike Baron go to Australia and disturb the natives.

Dear Larry,

Ron Lim is coming to Badger? Great! Ron is one of my favorite artists. Of course, with a new artist you are going to need a few new characters. Picture this. It is a dark and stormy night. Suddenly, a call for help is heard above the crash of thunder. The scene shifts to a gang of delinquents victimizing a voluptuous redhead walking home from a modeling assignment. Just when it looks like her dress will be completely ripped off, out of nowhere comes... The She Badgers. Yes, four door to door lingerie sales women who fight crime by night. (Badgerette, the head She Badger dresses in leather and

uses a whip.) Boy o-boy! Baron, Lim, sex and violence. What more could a guy want? I know! The Badger could even show up.

Mark Font
2744 Castle Bluff Court S.E.
#303
Kentwood, MI 49508

After his current four-issue stint (issues 33-36) Ron Lim will be coming back as our regular Badger artist starting with issue #40, which will not, sadly be about She-Badgers. Instead it will be a rather pedestrian story about your typical ex-Nazi death camp officer turned transsexual nun.

Dear Larry,

So the Badger is going for world champion. But it seems a combination tournament; martial arts and magic! Good. 'Cause more interaction with Ham is needed. Having Riley for a partner has been fun, and I hope he'll be around awhile.

I don't (yet) know what this Yellow Lotus is about, but it *can't* turn into another free-for-all! The all-out battle to enter the dojo of Hop Ling Sung was long and nasty and, personally, I don't know *how* you'll surpass it.

The costume variations on the beautiful Steve Rude cover make the Badger look *savage*. I liked it. (Still do.)

I agree with T.J. Campbell; Badger needs to go home to

Madison soon to protect people from "rude bicycle store clerks!" How about it?

Charlie Harris
Tucson, AZ

Well, as you probably know by now, Charlie, Badger has indeed returned to Madison — but in March he'll be off to China in his very first graphic novel, Hexbreaker. By Mike Baron and Bill Reinhold. Check it out.



Next Month: No back-up feature of any kind whatsoever as Badger hogs all 26 pages so Mike Baron and Ron Lim can tell the tale of "Dire Wolf." Cover by Mike Zeck.

—Rick Oliver

GRAPHITTI DESIGNS

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